

## Matrix of Credentialing Options

	<b>Candidate/Student Category</b> <i>Per RCW 18.225.090</i>	<b>Agency Category</b> <i>Per current agency requirements/regulation</i>	<b>Supervised Practice Category</b> <i>This could be considered the candidate category as well as the supervised practice category.</i>	<b>Independent Practice Category</b> <i>Must be Master's or above and met current RCW 18.225 for licensure. May allow grandfathering provision for those who have practiced more than 10 years and can show competence.</i>
<b>Education</b>	Students-currently in a master's or doctoral level educational program in mental health counseling or a related discipline from a college or university approved by the secretary based on nationally recognized standards;	Subject to agency regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A master's or doctoral level degree from program in mental health counseling or a related discipline from a college or university approved by the secretary based on nationally recognized standards;</li> <li>• Bachelor's degree in a related discipline from a college or university approved by the secretary based on nationally recognized standards</li> </ul>	Per WAC 246-809-220: A master's or doctoral degree in mental health counseling or a behavioral science master's or doctoral degree in a field relating to mental health counseling from an approved school... Any supplemental coursework required must be from an approved school Applicants who held a behavioral science master's or doctoral degree and are completing supplemental coursework through an approved school to satisfy any missing program equivalencies may count any postgraduate

				<p>experience hours acquired concurrently with the additional coursework. (see equivalency in WAC 246-809-221)</p> <p>A person who is NCC or CCMHC through the NBCC is considered to have met the education requirements.</p>
<b>Experience</b>	Currently in a supervised experience working toward the licensure or school experience requirement	Subject to agency regulation	For those working toward licensure, a supervised practicum experience is required. This experience can be either within the educational experience or post graduate for those whose programs did not include this requirement.	<p>Per WAC 246-809-230:</p> <p>A minimum of 36 months full-time counseling or 3000 hours of postgraduate mental health counseling under the supervision of a qualified LMHC or equally qualified practitioner in an approved setting. The experience includes a minimum of 100 hours in immediate supervision and includes a minimum of 1200 hours of direct counseling...</p>
<b>Examination</b>	Must have completed a competency exam within master's or doctoral program <i>(Must have some contingency for programs who do not require a competency exam in their program)</i>		Required. See WAC 246-809-240 for accepted exams.	Required. See WAC 246-809-240 for accepted exams.

<b>Supervision</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 hour of supervision per 10 hours of client time.</li> <li>• Or, weekly supervision</li> </ul>	Subject to agency regulation	<p>Required: Minimum 2 hours per month.</p> <p>Supervisor must meet WAC supervisor requirements.</p>	Supervision or Consultation recommended.
<b>Title</b>	Master of Counseling Intern	Agency Counselor	<p>Licensed Associate Mental Health Counselor <b>OR</b> Master's in Counseling Associate</p> <p>Licensed Associate Bachelor Counselor <b>OR</b> Bachelor's Counseling Associate</p>	Licensed Professional Mental Health Counselor
<b>Limitation in Scope</b>	<p>Under supervision in a program approved internship.</p> <p>No independent practice.</p>	Subject to agency regulation	<p>Under supervision</p> <p>No independent practice. <b><i>This group must be supervised Defined as a group setting/agency or organization. A person in this category could do co-therapy with groups or families or work in some of the non-traditional roles described in the public feedback. The key to this category is Associates are not out on their own without support or supervision without the requisite formal training and experience</i></b></p>	<p>The application of principles of human development, learning theory, psychotherapy, group dynamics, and the etiology of mental illness and dysfunctional behavior to individuals, couples, families, groups and organizations, for the purpose of treatment of mental disorders and promoting optimal mental health and functionality. Mental health counseling also includes, but is not limited to , the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of mental and emotional disorders as well as the</p>

			<p><b>requirements.</b></p> <p><i>Those who are currently in private practice (within limits—possibly 5+years of practice) might be allowed to continue only if they are under supervision of an approved supervisor and twice monthly at a minimum</i></p> <p><i>This may also be a reasonable category for those whose educational programs do not meet the requirements for licensure.</i></p> <p>Current RC's could be given 5 years to complete the minimum education/supervision requirements. Post graduate experience requirements could be waived for those who can show they have worked in the field for a minimum of 5 years.</p>	application of a wellness model of mental health (WAC 18.225.010 (8))
<b>Regulatory implementation</b>	New Category	Title created in statute?	New Category. Creation of a Bachelor's level regulation.	Name change <b>? Title Protection?</b>
<b>Stakeholder Implications</b>	Those who are currently in independent practice would be impacted. Many older students do not want to work in supervised setting. May	Allow current employees to drop their registration. Be able to continue to work within the agency setting without the	May not include some who are currently in the field and do not have the required degrees. Education costs may be prohibitive for some	Those who are currently practicing independently without the required degree and/or experience level may be

	be a reduction in pay for some people.	additional registration.	groups of people. Those who are currently in independent practice will no longer be able to practice independently. Supervision is required and may seem cost prohibitive to some. Examination may be difficult for those who have not had formal training. Associate Counselors may choose continue in this category if not working toward professional licensure but may not practice independently unless they hold the professional counselor license.	excluded. Grandfathering might be allowed for those who have been working for 10+ years. Examination or other method would be necessary to show minimal competence. Examination may be difficult for those who have not had formal training. Education costs may be prohibitive for some groups of people.
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A category for "Peer Counseling" could replace the registered counselor category for those who are not practicing "therapy" but do provide a desired/relevant service. ? Would Hypnotherapists fall in this category too if they chose to add counseling to their practice?

Grandfathering/transitioning; RC's who do not have a Master's degree can be given opportunities/time frame to attain the degree and be allowed to apply prior experience/supervision. Competence is difficult to "show" but the clinical exam is one way to determine basic understanding of clinical concepts and process.